

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listing of claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): An input device for a computer, comprising:

a housing;

a rotatable ball coupled to said housing;

an optical encoder comprising photo-interruptors disposed in said housing, said optical encoder providing output signals in response to rotation of said ball;

a control circuit, said control circuit receiving as inputs said output signals of said optical encoder, said control circuit also capable of controlling the power to said photo-interruptors of said optical encoder;

wherein said control circuit conserves power by operating said optical encoder in a periodic-pulsed mode when said ball is at rest longer than a preselected time interval and said control circuit utilizes said signals of said encoder in said periodic-pulsed mode to determine when to resume a continuous position sensing encoder mode;

an infrared transmitter to transmit data corresponding to the output signals of said optical encoder;

wherein the infrared transmitter transmits the data as bytes with a start bit; and wherein no infrared data are transmitted when said ball is in said power conservation state; and

The input device of Claim 13, further comprising a user settable identification code.

Claims 15 – 44 (canceled)

Claim 45 (currently amended): An input device for a computer, comprising:

a housing;

a rotatable ball coupled to said housing;

an optical encoder comprising photo-interruptors disposed in said housing, said optical encoder providing output signals in response to rotation of said ball;

a control circuit, said control circuit receiving as inputs said output signals of said optical encoder, said control circuit also capable of controlling the power to said photo-interruptors of said optical encoder;

wherein said control circuit conserves power by operating said optical encoder in a periodic-pulsed mode when said ball is at rest longer than a preselected time interval and said control circuit utilizes said signals of said encoder in said periodic-pulsed mode to determine when to resume a continuous position sensing encoder mode;

a wireless transmitter for transmitting data corresponding to the output of said optical encoder;

wherein said wireless transmitter transmits the data as bytes with a start bit; and wherein no data are transmitted when said ball is in said power conservation state; and

~~The input device of Claim 44, further comprising a user settable identification code.~~

Claims 46 – 65 (canceled)